

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 98**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Beth Gaines**

July 16, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 98—Relative to state employee merit awards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 98, as introduced, Beth Gaines. State employee merit awards.

This measure would declare that merit award payments in specified amounts, authorized by the Department of Human Resources, are made to specified current or retired state employees whose proposals have resulted in annual savings and net revenue gains to the state.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Section 19823 of the Government Code authorizes  
2 the Department of Human Resources to make awards to current  
3 or retired state employees who propose procedures or ideas that  
4 are subsequently adopted and placed in effect and result in  
5 eliminating or reducing state expenditures or improving state  
6 operations; and

7 WHEREAS, Any award granted under Section 19823 of the  
8 Government Code in excess of \$5,000 must be approved by  
9 concurrent resolution of the Legislature; and

10 WHEREAS, As described below, three individuals should be  
11 awarded for their effective, cost-saving ideas; and

12 WHEREAS, The Case Record Unit of the Department of  
13 Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is responsible for  
14 calculating the release dates of convicted offenders serving prison

1 time. The information is recorded on a calculation form. The unit  
2 was using the Offender Based Information System (OBIS), which  
3 was developed in the 1970s, as a primary automated system for  
4 storing offender data. However, OBIS was not able to automatically  
5 factor in the new sentencing laws enacted in the 1990s; and

6 WHEREAS, Court decisions complicated the release date  
7 calculations for violent and habitual offenders. Approximately  
8 30,000 cases had to be recalculated. For each record, staff had to  
9 manually perform 9-12 calculations and 23-31 entries using paper,  
10 pencil, and a desk calculator. A miscalculated offender release  
11 date was the serious consequence of any error; and

12 WHEREAS, Andrew Brown, a Correctional Officer and  
13 Permanent Intermittent Correctional Case Records Analyst,  
14 suggested that CDCR automate the Earliest Possible Release Date  
15 and the Minimum Eligible Parole Date. Mr. Brown created an  
16 Excel spreadsheet that simplified the process of calculating release  
17 dates, reduced the chance of error, and created a more professional  
18 document. This suggestion reduced the possibility of errors and  
19 increased productivity; and

20 WHEREAS, The annual savings to CDCR in staff time was  
21 \$133,198. Mr. Brown's approved award was \$26,640. Mr. Brown  
22 has received the initial \$5,000 and this resolution is needed to  
23 award Mr. Brown the \$21,640 balance. This idea has not only  
24 improved efficiency at CDCR, it also safeguards the citizens of  
25 California from the possible erroneous release of a violent offender;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Care Services  
28 (DHCS) mails a consumer guide monthly to Medi-Cal beneficiaries  
29 to help them choose the best health care plan for themselves and  
30 their families. The comparison charts in the County of Sacramento  
31 and the County of San Diego guides were four pages and each  
32 guide weighed two ounces; and

33 WHEREAS, Kathleen Simpson, a Staff Information Systems  
34 Analyst with DHCS, suggested reformatting the two guides. The  
35 reformatting reduced the mailing weight of each guide from two  
36 ounces to one and also reduced the printing costs. As a result of  
37 these reductions, DHCS realized an annual cost savings of  
38 \$48,233.36. Ms. Simpson's award was \$9,646.67. Ms. Simpson  
39 has received the initial \$5,000 and this resolution is needed to  
40 award Ms. Simpson the \$4,646.67 balance for this idea; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Wayne Stalie, an Equipment Maintenance  
2 Supervisor at CDCR, suggested two institutions, the California  
3 State Prison, Corcoran and the California Substance Abuse  
4 Treatment Facility, Corcoran, eliminate their contracted trash  
5 service and instead utilize existing staff and resources to share  
6 trash collection costs and services. CDCR recently noted that the  
7 two institutions have continued to save money with this resourceful  
8 idea; and

9 WHEREAS, The documented first year savings were \$434,226.  
10 Mr. Stalie's approved award was \$43,423. Mr. Stalie has received  
11 the initial \$5,000 and this resolution is needed to award Mr. Stalie  
12 the \$38,423 balance; and

13 WHEREAS, The savings generated by implementation of these  
14 suggestions will continue to be realized on an annual basis; and

15 WHEREAS, As a result of actual savings generated from the  
16 implementation of these suggestions, it is unnecessary to  
17 appropriate additional funds for payment of awards to these  
18 employees; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
21 hereby declares that merit award payments, authorized by the  
22 five-member Merit Award Board and the Department of Human  
23 Resources, are hereby made in amounts up to and including 10 or  
24 20 percent of the first-year savings generated by each suggestion,  
25 as follows:

- 26 (a) To Andrew Brown in the amount of \$21,640.
- 27 (b) To Kathleen Simpson in the amount of \$4,646.67.
- 28 (c) To Wayne Stalie in the amount of \$38,423; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
30 of this resolution to the Controller and to the Department of Human  
31 Resources.